



Alzheimer's State Plan Update, Executive Board  
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
Seven Hills RI  
178 Norwood Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02905

**Attendance:**

Thomas Enright, Esq., Acting Chair  
Sandra Fournier, Seven Hills  
Christine Gadbois, The Providence Center  
Donna McGowan, Alzheimer's Assoc. of RI  
Daniel McKee, Lieutenant Governor  
Kathleen McKeon, Diocese of Providence  
William Renehan, Ryan Center, URI

Note: A quorum had been met

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 am by Tom Enright. For those who did not attend the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Enright briefly outlined the discussion that took place at the meeting which included making it a priority for the subgroups to achieve the goals possible set forth by the State Plan as well as discussion of maximizing the dollars available in grant money.

**Goals of the Executive Board:**

Tom Enright stated the Executive Board should (1) re-examine the State Plan to determine if goals need to be added or changed and (2) attempt to locate the maximum amount of grant money available.

**Elder Transportation:**

Tom will meet with people outside this group to work on safe driving initiatives. Law students from Roger Williams University are committed to assisting, and he is attempting to locate a supervising attorney, preferably an elder law attorney. He has previously contacted three attorneys with elder law expertise, two were unable to take on the commitment and one he is waiting to hear back from. He

noted this group should meet separately from the Executive Board, but he will possibly attend. Christine Gadbois suggested contacting her daughter, Emily at Brown University whose dissertation pertains to elder driving ([Emily\\_Gadbois@brown.edu](mailto:Emily_Gadbois@brown.edu)). Chairman Enright informed the Board the safe driving initiatives have some achievable goals, and he is personally confident these can be accomplished. Donna McGowan informed the Board that Dr. Brian Ott from Rhode Island Hospital is also working with Medicaid and Medicare in the area of safe driving. Moving forward, Chairman Enright will reach out to Emily Gadbois and Dr. Ott as well as continue to search for a supervising attorney. Christine Gadbois suggested when meeting with Emily, try determine how to involve the Brown Department of Gerontology.

#### **Research:**

William Renehan referred to the arrival of the Ryan Institute at URI and stated it is designated to pursue the research of degenerative brain disease. The staffing at the Institute continues to grow, with four members presently dedicating their focus on Alzheimer's. They are in the process of hiring four more staff members and plan to hire more in the future. Mr. Renehan announced he will be the Associate Director of Ryan Institute. The Ryan Institute will bring in people throughout the state involved in ADA research, building partners and becoming the focal point of ADA research in Rhode Island. The skillset will be in circuit science and will not extend to disease related phenomenon at this time. Ryan Institute will work with many leaders in the study of Alzheimer's including Dr. Stephen Salloway and Dr. Brian Ott. Through collaboration, the Ryan Institute plans to be the Larry Price or the "go to" place in the state. The work performed at the Institute is in alignment with the State Plan, thereby addressing the goals outlined in the Plan.

Chairman Enright stated he is not an expert in many of the areas addressed in the State Plan but through implementation and with Lieutenant Governor McKee's support, we can make Rhode Island the place for brain sciences. Research is already being pushed by Dr. Schneider. Our job, as an Executive Board, is to ask what you need to implement the plan. Lieutenant Governor McKee commented that the Ryan Institute will be a coordination center. Mr. Renehan told the Board that a memo of understanding focusing on neuroscience and building collaboratively throughout the state is in place. Moving forward, this should reduce/eliminate duplication of efforts.

Christine Gadbois asked if the work being done at Brown in Gerontology is more in the policy area not the research. Mr. Renehan replied the Ryan Institute translates research into practice. Ms. Gadbois asked "will the Ryan Institute pull in the policy piece"? Mr. Renehan stated he cannot commit to that at the moment. The Institute will bring the mechanisms together, and over time, may develop strong outreach components but cautions that will take time to build. Research is the focus entity. In the future, it is possible the gerontology groups at Brown and URI may link together.

As discussion continued Kathleen McKeon said this Executive Board can play a key role, sharing information, updating efforts which will foster ending duplication. She continued the Lieutenant Governor's website will help serve this purpose. Her Caregivers group will be meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and she has asked Ms. Goodrich from the Lt. Governor's office to take some notes at the meeting. At this meeting she will inform the group about the newly formed Executive Board.

The Board was informed that the Lieutenant Governor's office did not have IT support or a staff member with the necessary expertise to work on its website but has recently hired a staff member whose duties will include maintaining and updating the website regularly.

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### **Caregivers:**

Kathleen McKeon noted that Respite Care is big piece of Alzheimer's caregiving, and a lot of work needs to be done in this area. Investing in Respite Care is one way to help people stay at home and will help rebalance Medicare. Respite care suffered serious state cuts in 2007. Governor Raimondo restored meals on wheel last year but full restoration of respite funds are not in the budget. Directory of Elderly Affairs, Charles Fogarty, has assured her it is at the top of his list to add funds if the opportunity presents itself. They have received \$50,000 in federal funds. With limited funding, a pilot program is planned to offer respite care on the 1st Sunday afternoon at a local center. Kathleen questioned if the Executive Board should play a role in sending a letter to Director Fogarty in support of the need to reinstate some funding. A letter from this board would serve as another level of support. The group agreed this would be an integral role they can play and not just meet and discuss. Tom Enright stated the letter should have an explanation of who we are as the Executive Board, a quick history of the state plan, how the Board represents all the sub-groups, and the purpose of the Board. Kathleen will write some language and forward to Tom Enright for additional input.

### **Grants:**

Co-Chairs, Sandra Fournier and Donna McGowan met to discuss Grant initiatives. Determining which grants are available is not possible without knowing specific needs. A summary of their meeting was sent to Mr. Dwyer. At Donna McGowan's request copies of that summary will be sent to all Board members. Tom Enright stated it is important that each subgroup identify their specific needs for the plan and submit to the Board.

### **Professional Workforce Training:**

Donna McGowan reported that Alzheimer's and dementia training is a "hot topic" nationally. Advocates are trying to change regulations for training.

Chairman Enright questioned Mr. Renahan about the status of the website adding that Nassar Zawia committed putting someone at URI on your staff to put the website together and link to other websites. Mr. Renahan will pursue this issue, adding that Paula Grammas is committed to moving forward to make that happen. Maintaining the website is still under discussion. Bill agreed to take on the role of liaison pertaining to research matters.

The Board would like to publicize the State Plan's goals and accomplishments to get awareness out there.

### **Announcements:**

The Alzheimer's Association is holding its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Caregiver's Journey", a conference for Alzheimer's Caregivers & Healthcare Professions, on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Registration is required.

Invitations are in the process of going out for the cocktail party hosted by the Board of Directors and held the night before the conference.

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**Summary:**

- \* Tom Enright will reach out to Dr. Ott, Emily Gadbois, RWU Law students, and continue to search for a supervising attorney.
- \* Kathleen will put the letter together and send to Tom.
- \* Barbara Goodrich will send memo regarding Grant funding issues to all Board members
- \* William Enright will check the status of the website as well as report back regarding which goals are being implemented at the Ryan Institute.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Seven Hills, 178 Norwood Avenue, Cranston.

**Adjournment:**

The Meeting adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Goodrich  
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel McKee

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